



BIOGRAPHY



Captain Martin Tossings, Royal Netherlands Navy

In 1980 Martin Tossings joined the Royal Netherlands Navy straight out of secondary school at the age of 17. After three years as a midshipman at the Royal Netherlands Naval College he was commissioned to sublieutenant and deployed to the frigate HNLMS Van Speijk as Assistant Weapon Engineer Officer, including a tour in the Caribbean. After further education in Electronics Engineering at the Delft University of Technology he joined the frigate HNLMS Isaac Sweers in 1985 as Deputy Weapon Engineer Officer. With this Anti Submarine Warfare frigate he mainly deployed in the North Atlantic, tracking Russian submarines making their way down south from Murmansk.

In 1987 he was transferred to the Naval Operations School in Den Helder where he headed the Communications Technology Section. In 1990 he took a Master's Degree in Design of Information Systems at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham (UK). On return to the Netherlands he joined the Navy Centre for Automation of Weapon and Command Systems in Den Helder, where he was involved in the design and development of Combat Management System software for new generations of ships.

In 1995 Capt Tossings returned to sea duty and joined the frigate HNLMS Van Galen as Weapon Engineer Officer, deploying to the Mediterranean as part of the NATO Response Force (Standing Naval Force Mediterranean) and to the Arabian Gulf to participate in Maritime Interdiction Operations off the coast of Iraq. In 1997 he once more returned to the UK, where he was posted as sea rider with the Royal Navy's Flag Officer Sea Training. In this position he trained a large number of ships from various nationalities all over Europe and beyond.

On returning from the UK in 2000 he attended the Long Staff Course at the Netherlands Defence Academy and was subsequently posted to the Admiralty in The Hague, first to the Forward Design Bureau, where he worked on concepts for future capabilities. In 2003 he moved within the new post of project officer Transformation. In this position he coordinated the Navy participation in the large scale restructuring of the Dutch military in 2003-2005, including the creation of a unified command structure.

As part of this restructuring the Admiralty was dissolved and in 2005 Capt Tossings was transferred to the new Royal Netherlands Navy Command in Den Helder as Deputy Head of the Policy Support Department. On 1 November 2006 he was promoted to Captain and took up the position of Head of the Management Control Department within the same Navy Command. In this position he was responsible for developing Navy plans and coordinating their execution. In September 2009 he left this post to prepare for his deployment to Afghanistan. In December 2009 he deployed to Kabul as the CJ-7 ANA Division Chief at NATO Training Mission Afghanistan (NTM-A)/Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan (CSTC-A).

Captain Tossings is married to Petra van den Hooven and they have three daughters. They live in Alkmaar, approximately 40 km north of Amsterdam.